

Saskatchewan
Rural
Telephone
Companies
Association

MINUTES of the
1958 CONVENTION

R. A. Clackson—President
Tisdale, Sask.

The 1958 annual meeting of the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Telephones was held in the City Hall in Prince Albert on July 15th at 10.30 a. m.

The president reported that the mayor would be here shortly to address the delegates. That the first business would be the appointing of two committees, the Press and the Resolutions. The executive had two members appointed to each committee. The delegates to select one each to complete the three member committees. After discussion Mr. D. J. Semko was appointed to the press committee, and Mr. T. G. Ostrander to resolutions. Mayor Stewart had arrived and was given the floor. The mayor said: It is always a pleasure for me on behalf of the City to welcome any convention to our city. In spite of the many modern conveniences the telephone has meant much to the development of the province. The rural telephones have helped and greatly assisted the province in communications over many years. At present we have the micro-wave and what develops herefrom only the technicians and scientists can form any adequate idea. Even then rural telephones will share an important role in future communications developments. We like to be a friendly city and so if anyone has no "courtesy parking tickets" I have a supply and more can be readily obtained. These are good for the whole day anywhere in the city. We welcome you and trust that your stay here will be pleasant and that you will come back again some time to the "Gateway to the North".

Applause followed the Mayor's address. The chairman thanked him for his words of welcome then said "we will now proceed further in our business. Since printed copies of the 1957 convention proceedings were given to all delegates at the registration desk I will ask the secretary to read the minutes of our last convention. In the past it was "taken for granted the delegates have read them".

Moved and seconded that we take the printed minutes as read. Carried.

The president then asked the chairman of the Resolutions committee to bring forward any resolutions. We will recess at 12:00 noon and re-convene at 1:00 p. m. Any delegates and visitors who wish to make a trip to Northern Wood Preservers at the close of this convention are welcome there.

Resolution A— to amend the existing by-laws of this association

Article 1: Aim. The object of this Association is to forward the interests of all rural telephone companies in the province and to forward all matters of proposed legislation that is sponsored by the annual meeting. Carried.

Article II: There shall be twelve (12) directors. The first four elected for 3 year term.

The second four for 2 year term. The third four for a 1 year term. After this year you will elect only 4 each year. Thus you will have more of a continuous body. Election means having the largest number of votes. Some discussion on the number of directors. Carried.

Article III: the directors shall elect a president and vice-president from their numbers annually and the Board shall engage a secretary-treasurer and fix his salary. He shall serve at the pleasure of the Board. Carried.

Article IV: Two (2) delegates or officials or secretary-treasurer from each rural telephone company which have paid up their membership fees in this association shall be allowed to vote at the annual convention of this association. A delegate in good standing is one whose company has paid its dues by December the thirty-first of the previous year. Carried.

Article V: The annual membership fee for rural telephone companies in this Association shall be fifty cents (.50c) per rural circuit.

Article VI: The fiscal year of this Association shall be from January the first to December the thirty first. Resolutions must be carried by a majority vote of the convention.

Note: This is a change from past years July first to June thirtieth. This part of the resolution was brought in to agree with the membership to the thirty first of December. Carried.

Article VII: Before any article or bylaw of this Association can be changed, a resolution to adopt such a change must be carried by a two-thirds majority vote of the delegates of the annual convention. Carried.

Resolutions committee: "That is all the resolutions, Mr. Chairman, dealing with the bylaws sponsored by the resolutions committee". Moved and seconded. Carried.

Resolution B:- Sponsored by the Board of directors: "Whereas it is felt that it would be in the best interests of this association and its executive that the president shall hold office only for two (2) consecutive years; therefore we move that the bylaws of the association be amended to that effect."

Note: "The president would again be eligible for presidency after a two year period". Mr. Polkinghorne seconded this motion and resolutions. Carried.

Resolution C:— By Dairy Dell and Rose Valley R. Tel. Cos. "Be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Government Traffic Board allow rural telephone companies to use farm licensed trucks and trailers for building, maintenance and repair of their lines". A member: "I will second this resolution". Carried.

Resolutions D: — Moved by the South Prince Albert R. Tel. Co. as per notice of motion given at the 1957 convention: "that the

number of directors in the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Telephones be reduced from ten (10) as at present to five (5)". Moved and seconded that we vote down this resolution since we have carried the new bylaws. **Lost.**

The secretary-treasurer read the auditor's statement on the financial position for the period July 1st, 1957 to June 30th, 1958.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Statement of Receipts and Expenditures

For the period July 1, 1957 to June 30, 1958

RECEIPTS

Membership Fees	\$1,002.50
Sask. Gov't 'Phones	150.00
Sask. Timber Board	
Honorarium	50.00
Interest - Dominion of	
Canada - Bond	3.00
Exchange added to	
cheques received on	
account of membership	1.05
	\$1,206.55

Bank Balance,	
June 30, 1957	312.63
Dom. of Can. Bond	50.00
	362.63

\$1,569.18

EXPENDITURES

Directors Travel Exp.	\$196.55
Printing, Postage	
and Stationery	355.82
Secretary's salary	
1956-1957	100.00
1957-1958	100.00
	200.00
Stenographic Services	25.00
Audit Fees	7.50
Repayment of loan	
J. M. Stroeder	40.00
Travel Exp. Secr.-Regina	22.50
Bank Service charge	1.00
Bank Charges	
Mailing Statements20
Exchange added to Cheq.	.95
Exchange on Cheq. Dep.	24.35
	\$ 873.87

Bank Balance,	
Statement,	
June 30, 1958	745.31
Less outstanding	
Cheq. No. 123 ..	100.00

Bank Balance	
June 30, 1958 ..	\$645.31
Dominion of Canada	
Bond	50.00
	695.31

\$1,569.18

Moved and seconded that the auditor's report as read be accepted. Carried.

Also moved and seconded that the audit fee of \$12.50 be paid. Carried.

The chairman stated that our next audit would be immediately after December 31st next—the end of our new fiscal year—and that an interim audit would be made at the end of June 1959 so that the convention will have full and complete picture of our financial situation at that time. Because of the new change in our fiscal year there was considerable discussion re amount of membership fees, if any, to be payable by rurals on 1957-58 due to conform to the new 31 December fiscal change. Were six months — 1st July 58—31 Dec. 58 payable or not? However, it seemed agreed that the secretary bill all rurals for 1958 and at the same time bill them for 1959 in accordance with the new bylaws just passed. Moved and seconded. Carried.

Meeting adjourned until 1:00 p. m.

The chairman announced that the Hon. Minister of Telephones was still absent and, therefore, asked the Deputy Minister, Mr. Muirhead to speak to the delegates. The latter said he was glad to attend to listen to the various problems, complaints etc., brought before the convention by the delegates. He wanted to understand better their troubles and difficulties; to meet old friends and to meet new delegates. Rural telephone companies are doing a big job serving approximately 60,000 subscribers, and are making a real contribution to the welfare of the people of Saskatchewan.

"From past convention experience I expect you have a lengthy agenda, and I would rather let the delegates occupy the time in discussions. Perhaps later in this meeting I will be able to reply to some questions or difficult problems" (applause). Next called upon was the Sup't. of Rurals, Mr. T. E. Cavanagh, who said: "I am pleased with the turnout of delegates from distant parts. The rurals are doing a very good job today and I know they will continue to do so. In the special levy accounts they have collected over \$1,000,000.00 and they are over spending this sum. The lines must be in better shape since the simple phase power has come into the picture. We have 3 inspectors checking power interference troubles. They report that 95% is caused by bad joints. We also had a successful winter school for linemen. We hope that more companies and linemen will take advantage of this course. All old debentures will be cleared in 1958 and only current debentures are in force this year. Only 77 out of 976 companies have debenture debts. Many new poles going in every year will make a vast im-

provement to the rurals. I am going to answer some questions."

Q: Can an elevator agent vote at an annual meeting? Reply: No.

Q: Can the S. A. R. T. membership fee be charged to the special levy? Reply: No.

Q: Should a rural give general calls free? Reply: That is entirely up to the company. I think there should be a charge.

Q: Should a rural give railways a free phone? Reply: That is strictly up to the rural company.

Q: May companies use credit unions instead of banks? Reply: There is no reason why they should not use the credit unions. We have found them very useful in the past.

Q: Should run-offs be assessed on the same quarter for special levy purposes? Reply: No.

A question period followed.

A delegate: To Mr. Muirhead: Will the province and journeymen linemen give 24 hour service and the companies give 24 hour service?

Reply: This arises because companies with 200 or more subscribers must go on 24 hours service. No doubt there will be temporarily some dislocation and maintenance troubles but we will try to service same as soon as possible. We do not stop repair service now because it is 5 o'clock; there will be established responsibilities along that line. We will do our best to meet those circumstances and I think the same will apply to the rurals.

Question to Mr. Muirhead: Is there any chance of getting service from Friday night to Monday morning? Reply: We service as quickly as possible and hope to do better in the future. At present we all should have a little patience.

Question: "Suppose we do have an extra 8 hours service, where are we going to get the money, or are we going to run a deficit?" Reply: I am speaking of agency office—now we are paying better—that there is a set amount; there is a whole new deal effective the first of September, and that they will be able to meet the extra costs.

Question: Are long distance rates uniform all over the province? Reply: Yes.

Question: How do the Saskatchewan rates compare e.g. with Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta? Reply: Our rates are among the lowest.

Resolution E: — From Nipawin R. Tel. Co. "Whereas the Government and municipalities are building roads, some the Grid Road System, also widening municipal roads, and they are requesting the rural telephone companies to move their telephone lines, that the total cost of moving such lines shall be borne by those requesting such move, and any moves shall be charged to those requesting same at actual cost price; Therefore be it resolved that the act

be amended as follows: "All parties requesting a rural telephone company to move any portion of an existing telephone line shall pay the actual cost of moving said line". Considerable discussion by many delegates. Carried.

Resolution F: — "Whereas municipalities can only obtain dirt for building roads to the full width of a surveyed road allowance and telephone companies are permitted to allow cross arms to overhang property adjacent to the road allowance and should the telephone company request in writing the municipality to clear the right of-way of trees or other obstructions to accommodate the overhang of telephone crossarms, that the act be amended so that the municipalities shall be permitted to remove such obstructions, resolved, that for the purpose of widening a road and at the request in writing of a rural telephone company, that any municipality shall be permitted to clear any obstruction beyond the survey line to accommodate the overhang of telephone cross-arms and wires".

The central point of discussion in this resolution asked to "go into a man's private property and clear his trees out, if they overhang the telephone line." Lost.

Question: "Do visitors have the right to vote or just the participants?" Reply by the chairman: "No. This morning the bylaws were read out and it is only the official delegates of those companies who are in good financial standing".

Resolution G:— From Assiniboia R. Tel. Co. "As the present act of the rural telephone company necessitates a two-thirds majority for any extensions with the existing regulation, and, whereas some of the ratepayers do not live on the property or do not require a telephone, therefore, it makes it impossible for the ratepayer or a prospective ratepayer to get a telephone: Be it resolved, that any ratepayer or ratepayers requesting a phone and willing to pay the full cost of it, that the quarter sections owned by the individuals wishing the phone be gazetted and levied for special levy. Furthermore, that any farmer at a later date wishing to participate in this extension, to do so it will be necessary for him to pay his proportionate amount of such extension". After discussions. Carried.

Resolution H: — From Good Luck R. Tel. Co. "We resolve and suggest to the rural department of rural telephones and the Labour Relations Board, that all employees and linemen employed by rural telephone companies have necessary qualifications and training to accept employment with rural telephone companies. After discussions. Lost.

The chairman asked Mr. McLean, to give

us some clarifications and information in regard to the Superannuation Act regarding telephone linemen, operators and companies. The latter said it's always a great pleasure to have an opportunity and the privilege of being with you people. It is also a great privilege to have you as participants in the Municipal Employees Superannuation Fund. At present there are 98 companies as active participants which comprise 132 employees and \$11,260.10 represents their combined equity in the plan at the present time. The total assets stands at \$1,263,000. Each quarterly remittance totals 75 to \$80,000. He gave other pertinent information. Perhaps there will be some questions. Question: "Is a switchboard operator included?" Reply: — No. Switchboard operators can only enter the provisions of this Act if the employer so requests and designates.

Question: "Before this association comes under the Act, do we not have to be properly incorporated?" Reply: I would say so, yes.

Question to Mr. Cavanagh: — "Can you take superannuation deductions when a man is engaged on special levy work—can we take the employer's contribution from the special levy fund"? Reply: No.

Resolution I: — A delegate moved that this convention recommend to the Dept. of Telephones that the Special Levy portion of the Act be so amended that employers superannuation deductions may be paid from Special Levy funds for special levy work. Note: Referred to the board of directors for attention.

Resolution J: — "That the increased commission payable to rural telephone companies which are being placed on 24 hour service is considered as insufficient to cover the increased wages required by operators in consideration of the extra hours of service to be given and to pay the secretary-treasurers for the additional accounting and collections to be made owing to the monthly billing of rentals rather than twice yearly as previously".

Much discussion and an explanatory reply from Mr. Muirhead. Moved and seconded that this resolution be tabled and come before the 1959 convention. Carried.

Resolution K: — "That our executive endeavor to secure for our rural companies by way of Commissions, a much larger share of the gross income to the Saskatchewan Government Telephones from long distance, town rentals and switching fees." Much discussion. Lost.

Resolution L: — From Marshall R. Tel. Co. Resolved, that this convention recommend to the Dept. of Telephones that the Special Levy portion of the Act be so amended that the employees superannuation deduction may be paid

from Special Levy funds for special levy work." Carried.

Resolution No. 3 of 1957 was taken up and discussed. Withdrawn by Nipawin, the sponsor.

Election of directors: Maynard Morash, Spruce Home, Sask.; R. A. Clackson, Tisdale, Sask.; C. B. Sutton, Marshall, Sask.; R. J. Greaves, Star City, Sask. Elected for a 3 year term. M. Scramstad, Hendon, Sask.; Cliff Geall, Asquith, Sask.; W. G. Streeton, Plunkett, Sask.; F. E. Jones, Assiniboia, Sask. Elected for a 2 year term. S. C. Gange, Prince Albert, Sask.; M. Fritshaw, Tisdale, Sask.; R. Y. Valens, Smiley, Sask.; H. B. Polkinghorne, Marsden, Sask. Elected for a 1 year term.

Saskatoon & Prince Albert were suggested as the convention city for 1959. Result of vote:—Saskatoon. The chairman announced that the board of directors had given consideration to the appointment of a committee to deal with bulk telephone materials suppliers for better consideration to member companies. "Do you wish that committee to continue?" Unanimously approved.

Mr. Sheardown—Divisional Superintendent in Saskatoon addressed the meeting briefly upon the request of the president. He said generally speaking those points that go on 24 hour service next September 1st, and talking with their officials, the deal proposed seems to be fairly well received and accepted. "We are going to compensate the agents adequately to cover the extra service hours which is about \$200.00 per month. There is also a new agency commission scheme proposed so that in most cases the agency will receive more monies. We are also going into a monthly billing plan of exchange service. We have not as yet provided our agents with routines required in this new scheme, but that information will be given out well before the first of September."

"Last convention", the chairman pointed out, "the printing of the bylaws was to be delayed until after this convention. Do you wish that they be printed now?" Moved and seconded that the new bylaws be printed and distributed. Carried.

The chairman reminded delegates again that they are welcome to visit Northern Wood Preservers and could do so at the close of this meeting. He appealed to the delegates to contact their local newspaper and give them a report of this convention. "We need more publicity to acquaint people with the work and efforts of this association. The secretary during the past year had added another service for the benefit of member companies. The "Wanted" and "For Sale" — surplus telephone materials. This was well received. He did not act as agent; but furnished them with the desired information. The companies concerned did their

own negotiating. This will be continued during the coming year."

A delegate inquired about power clearances and especially crossovers. In reply, Mr. Cavanagh said he would see the engineering Department and look into the matter.

The chairman announced that the newly elected directors will meet here immediately after this convention and that the photographer wanted a picture of the directors.

Question: "I am wondering if the Department could leave room on the top of the monthly bills where the rural company could have its name inserted". Reply by Mr. Muirhead: "I have to check on that. Our billing procedure is pretty highly mechanized and whether or not a change is possible I do not know. It may not be".

Question: "In an estate of a party with a share of telephone company, is the company required to return the amount of the shares of the estate to the same person?" Reply by Mr. Cavanagh: — "You are not required to do that and shares are not transferable from one farmer to another?" A delegate moved a vote of thanks and appreciation to all the speakers, officials of the Dept. of Telephones for the information they have given us; for the time in coming to the convention, and hoped they would continue to come back again.

"We have now finished our agenda of the day," said the chairman. "We had a nice turnout, and some wonderful discussion. I think you will all go away with the feeling that it was well worth-while. Again I ask you to contact your local newspaper, and give them a report of the convention." Moved and seconded that the meeting adjourn. Carried.

R. A. Clackson-Pres. J. M. Stroeder-Sec.-Treas.
Tisdale, Sask. Pilger, Sask.